



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAGLE PASS DOCTOR SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Del Rio, Texas, today Dr. Paul Harris, former owner of the Women and Family Care Clinics in Eagle Pass, Texas, was sentenced to 13 months in federal prison for defrauding the Texas Medicaid Program of over \$300,000.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Alia Moses Ludlum ordered Dr. Harris to pay a \$25,000 fine and restitution to the Texas Medicaid Program in the amount of \$304,798.

On August 3, 2004, Harris, 40, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the Texas Medicaid Program of over \$300,000 in connection with services provided to indigent pregnant women and their children. By his plea, Harris admitted that from 1997 to 2000, he defrauded Medicaid by: 1) falsifying medical records to support his fraudulent billing scheme, 2) causing employees to purchase prescription drugs at discount pharmacies in Mexico, smuggle them into the United States, then administer the drugs to patients while billing Medicaid for the drugs at full price, 3) performing incomplete examinations of patients while billing Medicaid for full examinations, and 4) falsely diagnosing a high percentage of patients as high risk in order to bill Medicaid for additional and more expensive procedures.

"Dr. Harris schemed to line his own pockets with taxpayers' hard-earned dollars and now will pay a high price for his dishonesty," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration - Criminal Investigation Division and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Texas Attorney General's Office. Assistant United States Attorney John A. Peralta prosecuted the case on behalf of the Government.

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